

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 GENEVA 02274 021813Z

43

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 EA-06 INSE-00 IGA-01 AID-05

ABF-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 VO-03

FBIE-00 /038 W

----- 073466

R 021750Z APR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1803

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: USG ACCOUNTS IN ICEM REFUGEE LOAN FUND

FOR S/R: ORM

REF: (A) STATE 071360; (B) 1809

1. "CHINESE REFUGEES EX-BURMA TO USA" REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 REFTTEL B ARE MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS IN BURMA WHO SECURE IMMIGRATION VISAS AND REQUIRE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PRINCIPALLY TO USA. DURING CY 1974, ICEM MOVED 211 SUCH REFUGEES TO USA AND 55 TO CANADA.

2. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM A CONFIDENTIAL WCC REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN BURMA: QUOTE:

"AS THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN BURMA TO DESCRIBE IN WRITING THE WHY AND WHEREFORE OF EACH RESETTLEMENT CASE I HAVE COLLECTED THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM OTHER ASIAN COLLEAGUES, SOME OF WHOM VISITED BURMA RECENTLY. IT UNDERLINES THE UNDOUBTEDLY REFUGEE ASPECT OF THE MIGRATION OF RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS FROM BURMA TO AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 02274 021813Z

1. SEVERAL YEARS AGO THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT DECIDED

TO KEEP BURMA "PURE" WHICH RESULTED IN DISCRIMINATION
OF ANYONE NOT PURELY BURMESE OR CONSIDERED
"WESTERNIZED" THROUGH BELONGING TO A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

2. THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WHICH ACTS AS
THE WCC COUNTERPART IN BURMA IS MERELY TOLERATED:
ONE SUSPECTS THAT THE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
IT RECEIVES FROM THE WCC IN BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN
CURRENCY IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THIS ALBEIT
GRUDGING TOLERANCE.

3. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THOUGH, THE ANTI-
CHRISTIAN FEELINGS ARE STEADILY GAINING GROUND AND
THE AUTHORITIES TAKE NO STEPS TO CHECK EVEN OPEN
ACTS OF HOSTILITY. ASIAN COLLEAGUES VOUCHSAFE THE
ACCURACY OF REPORTS ABOUT GANGS OF YOUTHS DISRUPTING
DIVINE SERVICES, PHYSICALLY ATTACKING THE OFFICIATING
CLERGYMEN AND FORCING CONGREGATIONS BY THREATS TO
LISTEN TO POLITICAL SPEECHES OF THE GANG LEADER.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY DENIED IT
APPEARS THAT THE REGION NEAR THE NORTH-EAST FRONTIER
IS UNDER CHINESE CONTROL. NATURALLY ALL MINORITY
GROUPS ARE AWARE OF THIS AND FEEL MENACED, THE
CHINESE MINORITY PROBABLY EVEN MORE SO THAN OTHERS.

5. TO THESE PEOPLE THE DECISION TO EMIGRATE IS A
PAINFUL AND TRULY IRREVOCABLE STEP, WHICH HOWEVER
THEY ARE OBLIGED TO TAKE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE AN
ATMOSPHERE OF HOSTILITY AND FEAR.

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DECISION TO
EXTEND ITS SERVICES TO THESE MIGRANTS RELECTS OUR
BELIEF, WHICH WE HOPE IS BEING SHARED BY ICEM,
THAT THESE PEOPLE- WHETHER ANGLO-BURMESE OR

SINO-BURMESE, CHRISTIANS OR BUDDHISTS ARE GENUINE
REFUGEES AND MERIT TO BE TREATED AS SUCH. UNQUOTE.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 02274 021813Z

3. VIEW CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATED IN
WCC REPORT ICEM DOES NOT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE
TO GIVE ANY PUBLICITY TO THESE CASES EX-BURMA.
HOWEVER, IN COLLABORATION WITH WCC, ICEM INTENDS
CONTINUE PROVIDING RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE TO THIS
GROUP AND SEEKS AUTHORITY TO COVER TRANSPORTATION
COSTS FOR NEEDY CASES FROM USG SPECIAL ACCOUNT NO. 1
AT APPROX DOLS 500 PER CAPITA. PLEASE ADVISE. DALE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, FUND ALLOTMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA02274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750115-0144
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750490/aaaadefy.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 071360, 75 1809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG ACCOUNTS IN ICEM REFUGEE LOAN FUND FOR S/R: ORM
TAGS: SREF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006